

CURRENT TOPICS

HERE IS "a Gypsy Smith Sunday in Denver epitomized" by the Denver Republican: "In the afternoon at a conservative estimate, yesterday 6,000 men marched in the greatest religious parade of its kind ever held in this country. At its conclusion Gypsy Smith addressed a congregation of 13,000 men in the auditorium. In the evening 14,000 people crowded into the auditorium to hear him, while fully 5,000 more were turned away. Over 3,000 people attended overflow meetings held in four churches. Fully 400 men answered the gipsy's call in the afternoon, and 400 men, women and children responded in the evening. Aroused by a plea for the overthrow of the liquor traffic, the immense afternoon congregation of men, Governor Shafroth presiding, unanimously passed resolutions denouncing the present Wardlaw-Cary local option bill. Similar resolutions were passed by over 6,000 people gathered in Christian Endeavor meetings in all parts of the city. The whole day's work marks the greatest religious demonstration that has ever taken place in this city, eclipsing not only the records of the past week-day meetings, but also all previous meetings of this kind."

WITHIN ONE hundred miles of the south pole is the record that seems to have been made. An Associated Press dispatch from London says: "A cablegram was received this afternoon direct from Lieutenant E. T. Shackleton, the Antarctic explorer, who earlier in the day was reported by the Pall Mall Gazette as having reached the south pole. The contents of this message have not yet been given out, but it has been declared by high authority that the explorer failed of success. The expedition was obliged to return when within about 100 miles of the pole. The secretary of the Royal Geographical Society said today that he had no information as to Lieutenant Shackleton's success, but this does not disprove the statement, as it is known that Lieutenant Shackleton contracted to furnish the first news regarding his explorations to London newspapers. It is considered here that Lieutenant Shackleton, when he came ashore at Invercargill, New Zealand, refused all information regarding the details of his exploration. He at once went to the cable office and dispatched a message. He looked the picture of health and intimated that all his comrades were well. Lieutenant Shackleton's expedition bade farewell to England at Cowes in July of 1907. The last visitors to his ship, the Nimrod, were King Edward and Queen Alexandra. His majesty presented the lieutenant with a union jack to which was attached a card bearing the message: 'May this union jack, which I entrust to your keeping, lead you safely to the south pole.'"

THE DEMOCRATS of the house held a caucus on the evening of March 23 and formally repudiated the democrats—Fitzgerald of New York, and the others who followed him in voting with the Cannon men. Mr. Fitzgerald spoke in defense of his desertion and he was answered by Mr. Hardwick of Georgia. The democratic caucus then adopted the following public statement: "The democratic members of the house of representatives of the Sixty-first congress, in caucus assembled, declare: First, We deplore the action of those democrats who supported the Fitzgerald plan of saving Cannonism. This section was in conflict with the caucus action of this party, in violation of its platform pledge, and we believe an overwhelming democratic sentiment. We believe the democratic party in the house disavows their action and disclaims all responsibility therefor. Second, Under the guise of giving to the democracy of the house representation on the rules committee and on the ways and means committee, Speaker Cannon appointed on the rules committee, as a democratic member, the proponent of the house in its fight to reform the rules and is in accord with the speaker, he appointed on the ways and means committee as a democratic member, a gentleman known to be wholly opposed to the democratic tariff view

and shown by his vote to be opposed to any change in the Cannon rules. We condemn the false pretense of the speaker in these appointments he has granted to the democracy on these committees and we hereby declare that in neither of these appointments is the democracy of the house or of the country represented and we decline to recognize such appointees as representatives of our party on said committees. This arbitrary and unjust conduct of the speaker demonstrates anew the urgent need for a thorough and real revision of the rules and a better spirit of their application so as to curb the speaker, protect the members and free legislation and legislative procedure from bossism. The issue is too great to be confined within party lines. Of nation-wide importance, it challenges the consideration of every American voter whose neck is free from the collar of a boss and whose back knows not the machine driver's lash."

REFERRING TO the democratic caucus the Associated Press says: "The committee of fifteen recommended that hereafter a two-thirds vote of all the democratic members of the house should be binding upon every democratic member, unless he notified the caucus in writing that he would not be bound unless the subject dealt with was a constitutional question or the member was already pledged to his constituency to vote otherwise. Representative Sulzer of New York, offered an amendment to provide for a committee of five democrats to confer with five republicans looking toward amendment of the present rules of the house. Scarcely had the declaration and amendment been introduced when Representative Fitzgerald was on his feet to defend himself as the 'proponent of the Fitzgerald resolution.' He was frequently interrupted in the defense of his action at the time of the organization of the house by questions and challenges from Minority Leader Clark, Representative James and others. None of the six Georgia 'bolters' were present at the caucus. The 'bolters' present were Representatives Fitzgerald, Goldfogle, Harrison, Lindsey, Fornes and Conroy of New York, Keliher and Peters of Massachusetts, and McDermott of Illinois."

CONCERNING the way Cannonism won out the Washington correspondent for the New York American tells this story: "Details of the plot whereby Speaker Cannon saved his rules last Monday morning through the treachery of twenty-three democrats, are slowly coming to light. It is now known that Fitzgerald, tool of McCarren, Standard Oil agent, was agreed upon almost a week in advance to turn the trick in the event that the republican 'insurgents' defeated the Dalzell motion to adopt the Cannon rules, which was what came to pass. The resolutions which Fitzgerald introduced, and which were adopted, were prepared several days in advance, and Cannon had a hand in their preparation. Indeed, the whole affair was specially cooked up, and as is now known, it went off without a hitch. Here are some additional details, however, that let in a flood of light on the affair, and point still more strongly to the truth of the allegation that oil and beer were saved by reason of the treachery of the twenty-three. Charles Francis Murphy, leader of Tammany Hall, telephoned to Congressman Riordan, of the old-time Sullivan district on last Monday morning, ordering him and all the other Tammany congressmen to vote for the Fitzgerald proposition. Murphy, it will be observed, knew in advance that Fitzgerald had a proposition. Mr. Murphy looked after the interests of the beer trust. McCarren, of course, acting for the oil interests, saw to it that the Fitzgerald proposition was all fixed up, and stiffened the backbone of Fitzgerald, if it needed stiffening, to brave his fellow democrats. Thomas Fortune Ryan had sufficient influence with the Georgia men, through his Southern railway connections, to drag them into line, and the sugar trust looked after the Louisiana members. The sugar interests, by the way, indignantly deny this allegation, through its friends, and points to

the fact that it, too, was injured by a reduction of the tariff on refined sugar in the Payne bill. Any one who does not believe that the sugar interests have been grossly ill-treated may examine the Payne bill, and note that the enormous reduction of five one hundredths of one cent per pound is provided for in the sugar schedule. The above are the additional facts that have been dug out by the indignant democrats, who are still hard at work striving to expose the whole deal. More may be forthcoming tomorrow night, when the democratic caucus meets to take action against those twenty-three alleged democrats who voted last Monday according to the dictates of 'their conscience.'"

THE ST. LOUIS Republic pays this deserved tribute to the democratic leader in the house: "Republican babble about Speaker Cannon having Champ Clark's head 'in chancery,' in the lingo of the prize ring, is moonshine, and very pale moonshine at that. Mr. Speaker's refusal to consult the minority leader about minority appointments to house committees in reality makes the minority leader a more formidable figure in the house than he has been since Speaker Reed began the treacherous practice of asking the advice of the democratic nominee for speaker about such appointments. It was all intended to compromise on the speaker's usurpations of the powers of the house, to weaken stern opposition by the offer of favors and to avoid full responsibility for the vicious organization by which the house was gagged. As long as the speaker wields the power of making the committees he should be held to a strict responsibility for the make-up and membership of the committees through which the house transacts its business. He will, in any event, pack them to his pleasure with the majority members. The event is rare in which the minority of them have any higher privilege than to be voted down by the majority, who reflect the speaker's views. It is not the business of the minority leader to relieve the speaker of any portion of his responsibility. When the speaker goes to the extreme of asking the minority leader to name all the minority committee members there is always the danger of an amicable understanding between two bosses to expedite the dictatorship of the more powerful one. Mr. Clark will prove the most powerful minority leader the house has had for many a year if he flatly refuses to share the speaker's responsibility for the committees. As he himself has said, the democratic minority of the house will become a more formidable fighting body than it has been in nearly twenty years when it is entirely relieved of all share in that responsibility. Leaders in congress are not made by appointment or election. They attain leadership by gaining the confidence of their party on the floor through experience, sagacity and fidelity. The 'Iron Duke' of the house plays bad politics, blunders lamentably and strengthens the minority in trying to snub Mr. Clark."

SOME IDEA of the way we grow is conveyed in a letter written to the Philadelphia Public Ledger by Charles N. Holmes of Chesnut Hill, Mass.: "It is an excellent plan occasionally to study and compare the greatness and growth of the United States of America. First. In 1800 we numbered 5,308,489; in 1900, 76,303,387; in 1909, we approximate in all 100,000,000. Second, In 1800 we possessed 827,844 square miles of territory; in 1900, 3,026,789 square miles; in 1909, we possess 3,756,884 square miles. Third. In 1850 we were worth about \$7,135,780,000; in 1900, \$88,517,306,000; in 1909 we were worth approximately \$120,000,000,000. Fourth. In 1800 our exports and imports of merchandise amounted to about \$162,000,000; in 1900, \$2,244,000,000; in 1908, \$3,055,000,000. Fifth. In 1850 we operated 9,021 miles of railways; in 1900, 194,262 miles; in 1907 a total of about 230,000 miles. Sixth. In 1800 we had only 903 post-offices; in 1900, we had 76,688; in 1907, 82,663 post-offices."